

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

January 2005



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

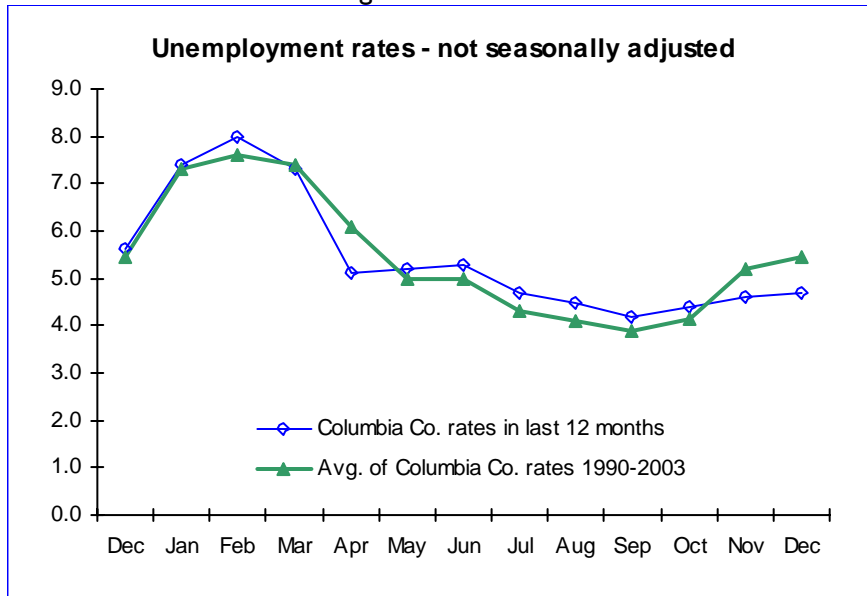
## Year ends with unemployment rates closer to normal or further below normal

In November and December, **Columbia County's** unemployment rate rose more slowly than it usually does at this time of year. The rate now sits 0.8 percent below its typical December level. December was the first month since March with higher transportation, warehousing & utilities employment estimates for 2004 than 2003. Construction employment estimates are following last year's seasonal trends very closely while leisure & hospitality employment estimates have lost their summer luster.

cember (0.7 percent above typical) and closer than it had been at any point in 2004. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates remain well above year-ago levels, but less so than during the summer. Retail

typically does in December, remaining 0.5 percent above the typical December level, which was as close to normal as it had been in all of 2004. Compared to the same months of 2003, education & health

services employment estimates softened slightly from June through August of 2004, but regained vitality September through December. Through September 2004 construction employment estimates followed seasonal trends of 2003. Because the estimates declined more gradually this autumn and winter than last, they were



In **Dane County** the unemployment rate fell instead of rising as it usually does in December. It is 0.4 percent above its typical level, which is much closer than last De-

trade employment estimates continue to be stronger than they were in the summer of 2004.

The unemployment rate in **Dodge County** held steady, as it

further above year-ago levels than they had been at any point in 2004.

In **Jefferson County**, the unemployment rate rose a bit more quickly than they typical December.

## Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,092,200	-20,720	27,100	455,700	-3,220	3,800	28,200	-280	10	295,100	-2,330	4,800
Employed	2,963,800	-18,790	48,500	442,500	-3,120	5,500	26,900	-280	280	288,900	-2,020	5,500
Unemployed	128,300	-1,930	-21,480	13,200	-100	-1,690	1,320	0	-270	6,100	-310	-690
Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	0.0	-0.7	2.9	0.0	-0.4	4.7	0.1	-0.9	2.1	-0.1	-0.3
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	47,500	-350	10	41,500	-90	-1,060	7,000	-20	-100	36,500	-160	170
Employed	45,500	-320	460	39,800	-140	-970	6,400	-70	70	35,000	-300	190
Unemployed	1,980	-30	-450	1,730	50	-100	520	50	-170	1,540	140	-20
Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	0.0	-0.9	4.2	0.2	-0.1	7.5	0.8	-2.3	4.2	0.4	-0.1

\*\* Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email [dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us).

Still the rate is closer to normal than it has been for ten of the last 12 months. Construction employment estimates declined more gently in the autumn and winter of 2004 than in 2003, and they are now as far above year-ago levels

as they have been since April. The information, professional, business & other services employment estimate recovered slightly from its sharp drop in October

The December unemployment rate for **Marquette County** rose just as it usually does, remaining 0.2 percent below the typical December level. April was the only month in 2004 that reported a more encouraging rate, and that was the result of such a

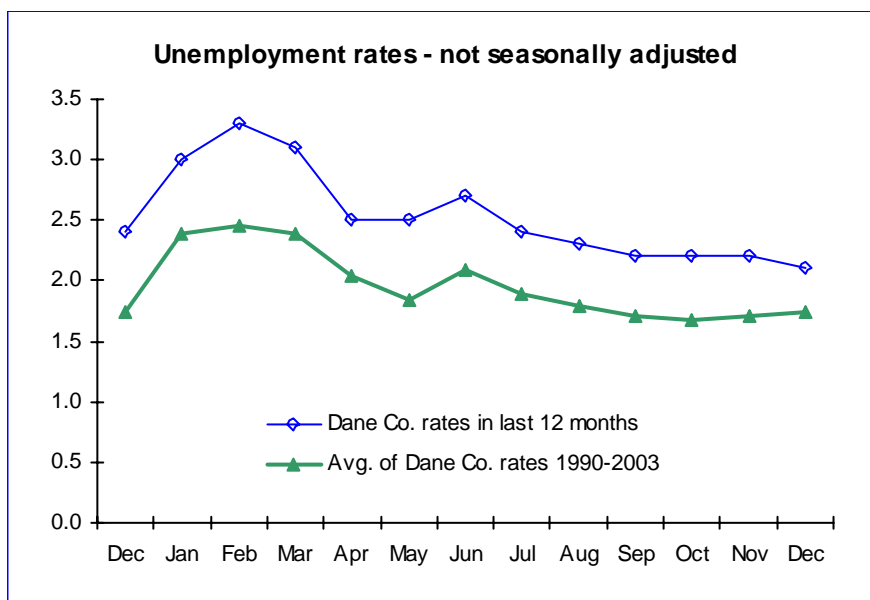
sharp rate drop that the rate was bound to bounce back up in a couple of months. Construction employment estimates rose more slowly in the summer of 2004 than 2003

and fell a bit more gently in November and December of 2004 than 2003.

The unemployment rate in **Sauk County** rose a bit more slowly than it typically does in December, leaving it

0.3 percent below the typical December rate. Rates were more encouraging between January and April of 2004, but less encouraging from June through October. From April through October, retail & wholesale trade employment estimates were below year-ago levels, but they shot up in November and remained relatively high in December. Information, professional, business

& other services employment estimates began 2004 well above year-ago levels, but did not match their growth rates from 2003 and ended below year-ago levels.



### Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

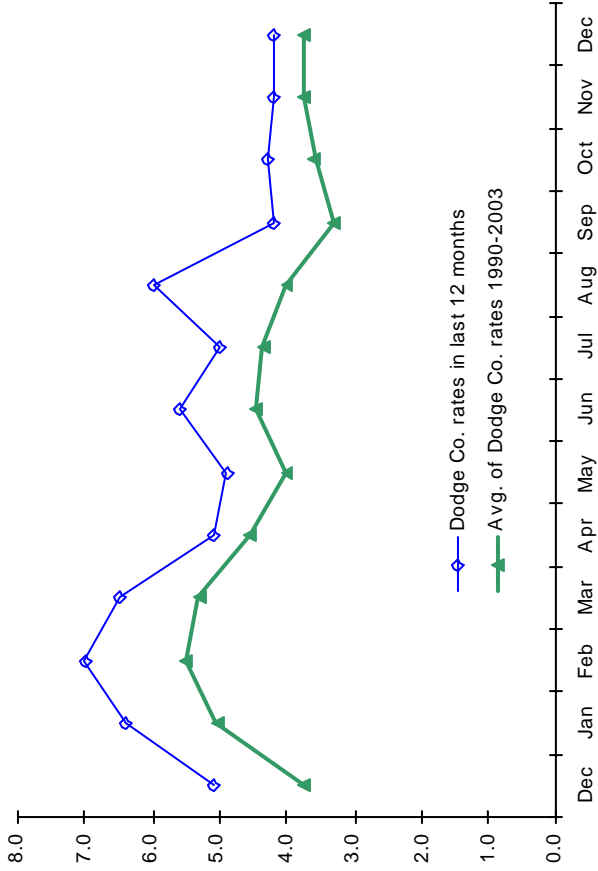
	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,857,100	-15,700	63,200	436,700	-2,000	5,000	20,800	-80	290	307,200	-1,600	4,400
Const., min'g & nat. resources	127,900	-6,300	2,400	22,300	-530	1,040	1,160	-30	50	15,500	-100	800
Manufacturing	516,800	-3,000	15,400	59,000	50	-40	4,600	-40	-110	27,900	200	500
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	461,500	800	14,900	68,300	320	1,190	3,600	0	30	46,600	400	700
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	109,900	-300	1,700	10,800	-70	-180	750	-30	20	7,100	100	-400
Financial activities	163,700	1,000	3,600	29,800	220	-300	690	0	80	25,500	100	-500
Education & health services	384,800	1,500	10,900	45,700	90	810	2,300	0	20	30,700	0	600
Leisure & hospitality	240,600	-300	3,600	38,600	-370	1,100	2,100	50	40	24,800	-300	900
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	438,300	-3,700	15,000	67,500	-570	1,280	1,620	-30	60	54,100	-500	1,300
Government	413,600	-5,400	-4,300	94,600	-1,150	70	3,900	10	100	75,000	-1,400	300

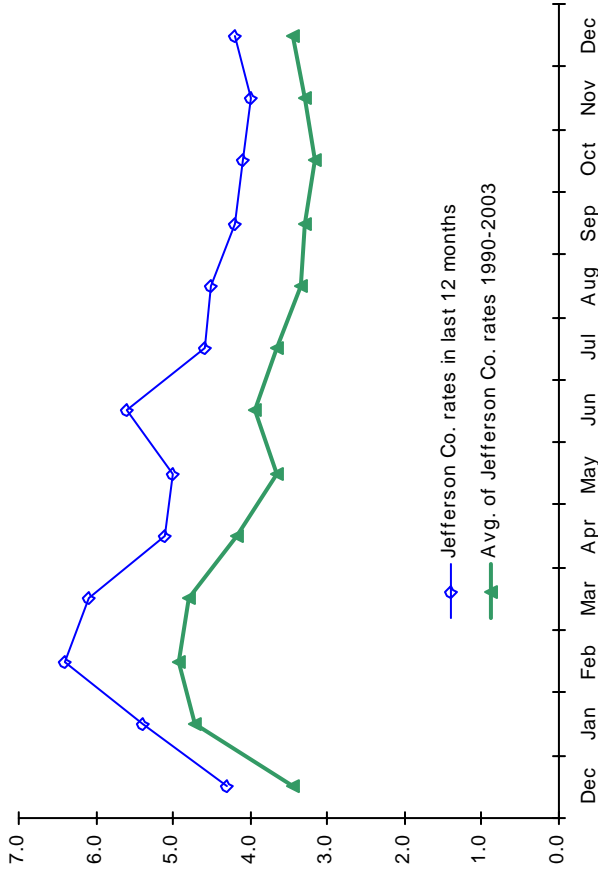
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Dec 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	34,300	-100	430	34,900	-10	-430	3,900	-70	30	35,700	-150	260
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,100	-110	90	1,370	-40	90	150	-70	-40	1,960	-180	60
Manufacturing	10,100	-110	30	8,700	20	-620	1,240	10	30	6,500	-30	140
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	4,300	0	250	6,100	0	60	460	0	0	7,300	-80	150
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	1,010	0	10	1,240	-10	0	60	0	10	650	-20	-40
Financial activities	850	10	0	990	20	30	160	0	10	1,580	90	80
Education & health services	4,400	30	210	4,600	40	-60	320	0	10	3,400	10	30
Leisure & hospitality	2,300	-30	30	3,100	-40	20	380	-10	0	5,900	-40	120
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	3,600	40	-120	5,000	-30	300	230	0	20	3,000	-50	-270
Government	5,500	80	-70	3,900	30	-250	870	-10	0	5,500	150	-10

\*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

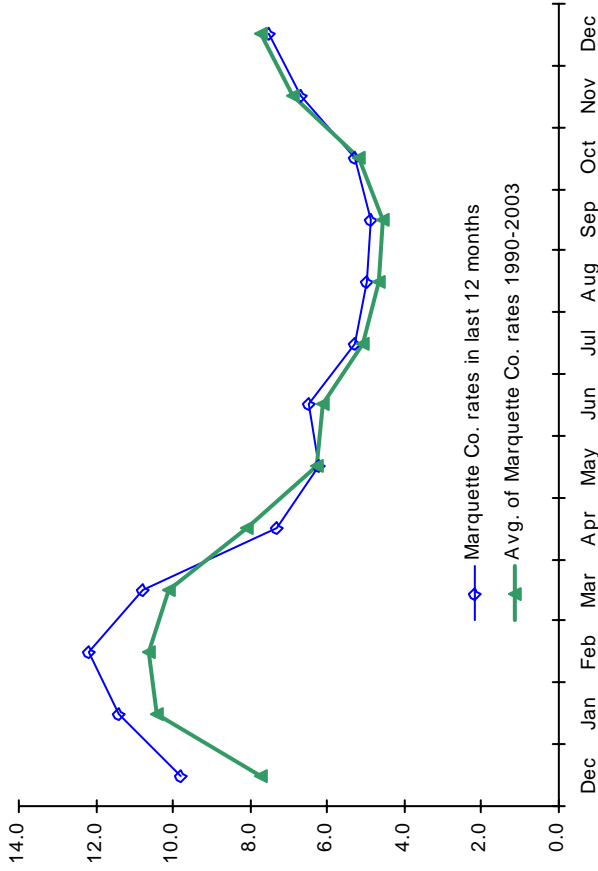
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